



PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.2121-154P

#6c 2/23/02  
T. Gray

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of )  
Marc DE BLOCK )  
Serial No.:09/461,416 )  
Filed: December 16, 1999 )  
For: Genetic Transformation )  
Using a PARP Inhibitor )

Conf.: 3779  
Group Art Unit: 1661  
Examiner: W. Baker

**RECEIVED**

FEB 08 2002

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

**RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT**

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 4, 2002

Dear Sir:

In complete response to the Official Action mailed October 2, 2001, the time for responding to which has been extended by the accompanying Petition for Extension of Time and fee, kindly amend the above-captioned application as follows :

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the following claims:

Sub D  
C 1 24. (Once Amended) A method for assessing the agronomical fitness of a plant comprising the steps of:

- a.) subjecting an explant of said plant to a stress condition;
- b.) measuring the electron flow in the mitochondrial electron transport chain to assess agronomical fitness in cells of said explant of said plant;